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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A preform with a hollow tubular or approximately tubular shape for obtaining, after deformation, a personalized orthodontic or dentofacial orthopedic apparatus that can be expanded inside a mold reproducing the morphology of a subject,

wherein said preform has a variable thickness and is being cut on an upper anterior part thereof to form an opening, leaving a closed upper posterior part while a lower part or slide is adapted to substantially match a lower maxilla of the subject.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Previously Presented)** The preform according to claim 1, comprising a thermoplastic or thermosetting plastic material which is deformable through expansion.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The preform according to claim 4, comprising a thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate, methyl polymethacrylate, PVC, and polyurethane, or a thermosetting plastic material selected from the group consisting of methyl polymethacrylate and polyurethane.